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# ■ Guide To Career Choices

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## HEALTH SERVICES

nursing, residential &  
home health care

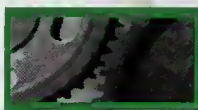
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a brief look at:

APR 10 2002

- jobs
- education and training requirements
- wages
- outlook

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**HEALTH SERVICES...  
NURSING, RESIDENTIAL &  
HOME HEALTH CARE**  
guide no. 03

ENTRY : The mean (average) of the bottom third of wages in an occupation.  
MEDIAN: Half of the workers in the occupation earn more than this wage; half earn less.  
EXPERIENCED : The mean of the top two-thirds of wages in an occupation.

HS > High School diploma or equivalent  
AD > Associate Degree of Arts/Science  
community college, 2 years  
BA/BS > Bachelor of Arts/Science degree  
colleges/universities, 4 years



Career Opportunities	OUTLOOK			HOURLY WAGES			EDUCATION AND TRAINING
	2008 EMPLOYMENT	LONG-TERM OUTLOOK	SHORT-TERM FORECAST	ENTRY	MEDIAN	EXPERIENCED	
Home Health Aides	20,127	VF	VF	\$6.24	\$8.13	\$9.11	HS and state-approved training required.
Human Services Workers	15,955	VF	VF	\$7.01	\$10.58	\$13.20	HS may meet requirements, but some college work in field is preferred.
Licensed Practical Nurses	28,972	VF	VF	\$9.89	\$12.71	\$14.68	HS and completion of state-approved (one-year) practical nursing program, which includes formal study and patient care.
Medical & Health Service Managers	10,820	VF	VF	\$14.56	\$21.83	\$27.61	Master's degree in a related field is preferred. Smaller facilities, however, may accept a bachelor's degree.
Nursing Aides & Orderlies	61,825	VF	VF	\$6.75	\$7.76	\$8.60	HS and state-approved training required.
Occupational Therapists	5,113	VF	VF	\$14.01	\$24.18	\$29.35	BS in occupational therapy, including six months of clinical internship. Many require a master's degree.
Personal & Home Care Aides	17,017	VF	VF	\$5.49	\$7.08	\$10.34	Most learn duties on the job.
Physical & Corrective Therapy Assistants	4,873	VF	VF	\$7.59	\$12.20	\$15.43	AD or a high school diploma and on-the-job clinical training. Admission into program is competitive.
Physical Therapists	7,216	VF	VF	\$15.91	\$28.01	\$30.76	BS in physical therapy or master's program if degree is in a related field.
Registered Nurses	116,232	VF	VF	\$13.44	\$18.42	\$21.72	AD/BS in nursing or diploma from hospital nursing program. Some career paths (such as teaching) are open only to nurses with bachelor's degrees.
Residential Counselors	7,747	VF	VF	\$6.65	\$9.67	\$12.47	Most employers prefer a bachelor's degree in a related field.
Social Workers, Except Medical & Psychiatric	22,757	VF	VF	\$10.31	\$15.51	\$18.46	A BA/BS degree in social work or a related field is generally required, however, many positions require a master's degree.
Social Workers, Medical & Psychiatric	11,461	VF	VF	\$10.25	\$14.34	\$19.05	In health and mental health settings, require a master's degree in social work.

• Occupational growth rates and job opening data are based on All-Industry projections through the year 2008.

• Long-Term Outlook and Short-Term Forecast descriptors are derived from projected employment growth and the level of employment for the occupation as a percentage of total employment.

• Wage data cover full-time, part-time and seasonal employees but exclude temporary and contractual workers. Wages include piece rates, commissions and cost-of-living allowances but exclude overtime and tips.

\*\*\*data are not available

F Favorable  
VF Very Favorable  
UF Unfavorable  
VUF Very Unfavorable

## ■ WHAT ARE SOME OF THE JOBS?

**HOME HEALTH AND PERSONAL/HOME CARE AIDES...**care for elderly, convalescent or persons with disabilities in the home of the patient. They perform duties for the patient such as changing bed linens, preparing meals, assisting in and out of bed, bathing, dressing, grooming and administering oral medications under doctors' orders or direction of a nurse. Most work with clients who need more extensive care than family or friends can provide. Nursing aides or assistants, whose duties are similar, but who work in nursing or residential care facilities, are often principal care-givers.

**HUMAN SERVICES WORKERS...**work under the direction of professionals from a wide variety of fields, such as nursing, psychiatry, rehabilitation or social work. Among the services they provide are assisting clients to obtain benefits, transporting them to daycare or meal programs and supporting them in treatment plans and daily living skills.

**THERAPISTS...**Occupational therapists help patients improve basic motor functions and reasoning abilities so that they can lead independent lives. From using a computer to caring for daily needs (such as dressing, cooking and eating), patients are assisted and encouraged to increase their strength, dexterity and skills. Physical therapists improve patients' mobility, relieve pain and prevent or limit permanent physical disabilities. They evaluate medical histories; test and measure patients' strength, range of motion and ability to function; and develop treatment plans. In carrying out these plans, therapists are supported by physical and corrective therapy assistants.

**SOCIAL WORKERS...**help patients and their families cope with chronic, acute or terminal illnesses and with problems that may stand in the way of recovery or rehabilitation. Some specialize in working with elderly people and their families, advising them about choices in such areas as housing, transportation and long-term care.



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## ■ WHAT IS THE JOB OUTLOOK?

Employment is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations in response to an emphasis on rehabilitation and the long-term care needs of a rapidly growing population of those 75 years old and older. Home Health Aides are expected to be among the fastest growing in the economy. Demand will also result from advances in medicine that allow more people with critical problems to survive, but then need rehabilitative therapy.

In the psychiatric field, employment will rise in response to the sharp increase in older people who will require more mental health services. Another reason for the increase is the increasing public acceptance of formal treatment for drug abuse and alcoholism, and a lessening of the stigma attached to those receiving mental health care.

## ■ WHERE CAN I FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION?

The Occupational Outlook Handbook, 2000-01 Edition, contains many additional sources of information for over 250 occupations in all sectors of the economy. You may order the Handbook by contacting the U.S. Government Bookstore, 401 South State Street, Suite 124, Chicago, Illinois 60605-1297, 312/353-5133 or check out the online version at <http://stats.bls.gov/ocohome.htm>.

For access to other labor market and workforce information on the internet, visit the following sites:

IDES' home page: <http://www.ides.state.il.us>,

LMI Source: <http://lmi.ides.state.il.us>,

Workforce Info Center: <http://www.ILWorkInfo.com> and a site targeted towards high school students:

<http://www.workforceinfo.state.il.us>.



### Career Guide Sources:

Illinois Department of Employment Security's "Occupational Projections" and "Occupational Employment Statistics Wage Data" and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' "Occupational Outlook Handbook"

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